



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Schools Cup at Musgrave Playing Fields
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Irvine, Outreach Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the council received a request on 14 September 2011 from the Northern Ireland Schools Football Association (NISFA) to host the quarter finals of the NI Schools Cup at the City of Belfast Playing Fields (Mallusk). The event will have approximately 600 participants from schools across Northern Ireland and approximately 25 schools have teams competing in the quarter finals. Age categories range from under 12s through to under 18s. The date proposed for the event is Wednesday 15 February 2012.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The event took place last year at Mallusk for the first time and the use of a single venue enhanced and promoted cross community participation and engagement through the medium of soccer and ensured effective and efficient running of the finals.</p> <p><u>Media Coverage</u> The NISFA has formalised a relationship to work in conjunction with the BBC and the Belfast Telegraph to raise the profile of the Schools Cup. Both will be present at the event ensuring media coverage. Raising the profile of the Schools Cup will have a positive effect on participation levels in schools. Last year the NISFA requested council representation at the televised draw for the finals and hopes to do the same this year, this is planned to take place at the UTV studios.</p> <p>The Community Parks Outreach Manager will liaise with the Lead Communicator and Corporate Communications on potential media coverage and promoting the council's role.</p>

	<p><u>Event Management</u> The event organisers will complete the agreed event management plan to address all relevant issues including health and safety to the satisfaction of council officers.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial Resources</u> Each school participating will cover the cost of their own transport and the sponsors of the NI Schools Cup will cover the cost of the referees. Potential revenue for the use of the pitches is £375.00 however the committee is asked to note that the organisers have made application for free use of both the pitches and the ancillary facilities. Committee is also asked to note that the organisers have requested that 4 pitches be re-marked to accommodate junior football. This will require these pitches to be re-marked again in time for the weekend league fixtures. As the event will be held mid week there will be no displacement to regular users.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> It is estimated that the event will require 2 members of staff to supervise and assist with the allocation of dressing rooms. The ancillary facilities will then need to be cleaned in time for the weekend fixtures. Staffing costs for both is estimated at £138.00.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	<p>There are no equality implications. The 600 under 18 participants represent a range of different age groups, gender, ethnic and religious background.</p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the quarter finals of the NI School's cup are held at Mallusk subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of council officers.</li> <li>2. That the event organisers are given free use of the pitches and subsequent facilities.</li> </ol>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>All actions will be completed by Paula Irvine Community Parks Outreach Manager and Eilish Patton Outdoor Leisure Officer by 31 January 2012.</p>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	<p>NISFA: Northern Ireland Schools Football Association.</p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>None.</p>